

Generic Focus Group Discussion Guide on Basic Hygiene Concepts for Mothers of Children under 5

Introduce all of the research team present. Explain the purpose of the discussion, that there are no “correct” answers, that everyone should participate, and that each person’s opinion is valuable, the time it will last, and that refreshments will be served. Ask the group’s permission to record the discussion in case the note taker doesn’t catch everything, and promise that no one besides the researchers will listen to it. Mention that all participants are mothers of children under 5 (and other common selection criteria). Ask each person to please introduce herself, and then to tell about the funniest thing her young child ever did. Or if someone can’t think of anything that was funny, they can tell about something special about her child.

Concept	Basic Questions	Probing (Follow-up) Questions
Dirty/clean	<p>Think about your little children...do they ever get dirty?</p> <p>What does your child do to get dirty?</p> <p>So you notice that your child is dirty...and then?</p> <p>Do some particular parts of the body get dirtier than others?</p> <p>So let’s say you notice that your child’s hands are dirty...and then? Let’s say you notice your own hands are dirty.and then?</p>	<p>What does it mean to get dirty? How do you know if your child is dirty?</p> <p>How do you feel about your child getting dirty? Do you ever do anything to try to prevent this?</p> <p>How do you feel about that? Do you do anything? Is there anything good about your child being dirty? Is there anything bad about your child being dirty?</p> <p>Which? How do hands get dirty? How do you know when your children’s hands are dirty?</p> <p>How do you feel about that? Do you do anything? How do you feel about that? Do you do anything? If so, please say exactly how you do it.</p>
Water	<p>If you wash hands with water, where does this water come from?</p> <p>Do you think all water is the same, or are there different types of water?</p> <p>Can water be dirty?</p> <p>Please describe what the water is like that your family drinks. Are you satisfied with the water your family drinks?</p>	<p>Who fetches it? How do you store it at home? Do you always have enough water? Please explain.</p> <p>How are they different? Where does each type come from? Do you like to use different types of water for different purposes? Please explain.</p> <p>How do you know? How does that happen? What is dirty water good for and not good for?</p> <p>[If not mentioned] ask about color, smell, clarity, source, treatment, clean or pure. What, if anything, about it would you like to be different? Do you do anything to water before you use it at home? If so, what, how and why?</p>
Feces	<p>What are feces? What kinds of feces are there?</p> <p>What is good or bad about feces?</p>	<p>Are children’s feces the same as adult feces? Are animal feces the same as people’s feces? Do you use feces for anything?</p> <p>Do you think feces are clean or dirty or what?</p>

	<p>After adult feces come out, where do they belong?</p> <p>After child feces come out, where do they belong?</p>	<p>What most families around here do with adult feces?</p> <p>What most families around here do with child feces? With an infant's feces, a 2 year old's, a 5 year old's</p>
<p>Latrines [assume these mothers do not have latrines; use different questions for a group of mothers that do]</p>	<p>Some [a few] families around here always seem to put feces in a latrine.</p> <p>Do you think its important is it for a family to have and use a latrine? Would you like to have a latrine your family? Please describe the kind of latrine you would like to have if you could. What would it be like?</p>	<p>What do you think about that?</p> <p>What's good about using a latrine? What problems might people have in always using a latrine?</p> <p>If people are having a hard time, suggest things like where it's built, what it's built of, what it looks like, what it's like inside, how easy is it for kids to use, what it smells like, privacy, etc. List all the ideas so everybody can see them. If mothers can't read, draw the ideas. Then discuss which things are most important. At the end, ask each person name the 3 most important things.</p>
<p>Causes of child illness</p>	<p>What are the main illnesses that kids around here get? [Reach group consensus on the top 3 illnesses.]</p> <p>What causes [each of these illnesses]?</p>	
<p>Prevention/fatalism</p>	<p>Can families like yours prevent these illnesses in children?</p>	<p>Which illnesses? How?</p>
<p>Diarrhea</p>	<p>What is diarrhea?</p> <p>What do you think and do when your child gets diarrhea?</p> <p>Are there different types of diarrhea?</p> <p>Can families like yours prevent diarrhea?</p>	<p>Who gets it the most? Is it good or bad and why?</p> <p>How much does it concern you if your child has diarrhea?</p> <p>What are they? What do you think causes each type?</p> <p>If so, how? Which of these things do you do now? Which of these things would you like to do? What has prevented you from doing the things you would like to do to prevent diarrhea?</p>